

provided employment during the last three years showing a growth of over 100%.

(d) Several Policy measures have been taken to facilitate infrastructural development and attract foreign investments in the area of Information Technology for improving the position of employment in the country. Some of them are, setting up new Software Technology Parks (STPs), establishing Media Lab Asia, spread of internet and IT enabled services.

Setting up of Media Labs

1296. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the media labs, which would help the country to emerge as an IT super power, were proposed to be established in June, 2001;

(b) if so, how many such labs have been established so far; and

(c) the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Setting up of Media Lab Asia was approved on May 31, 2001 and launched on June 24, 2001 with the signing of an agreement between Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA and Ministry of Information Technology, Government of India. A non-profit organisation is being set up and is expected to be in place August, 2001.

(b) and (c) It is expected that Media Lab Asia will establish a network of projects/labs with the operational office (Headquarters) at Mumbai. The details and exact locations of projects will evolve with the implementation of exploratory period of one year.